THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has conducted a limited survey to study the impact of commonly used pesticides, namely, DDT and BHC on environment. Some of the general findings are that there are residues of these pesticides in human fat samples, food commodities and cooked meals; the raw food commodities like wheat, rice, ghee, mutton, etc. are found on occasions to have mean levels of DDT and BHC above acceptable level; however, the average daily human intake of DDT is very close to acceptable level.

(c) The manufacture/import, sale, transportation, distribution and use of pesticides and herbicides is regulated through the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder. The pesticides and herbicides having excess residual effects on environment are not allowed to be registered.

Pollution of sub-soil water

845. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution of sub-soil water is increasing alarmingly in the country;

(b) which areas have been worst affected;

(c) what remedial measures have been taken to check further deterioration and to improve the situation; and

(d) what is the degree of success attained so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, pollution of sub-soil water has increased in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Remedial measures include the following:

(i) Steps have been initiated to set up combined effluent treatment plants in critical areas such as Vaniyambadi in Tamil Nadu, Jetpur in Gujarat, Pali in Rajasthan and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh to control pollution from clusters of small-scale industries.

(ii) Standards for effluent discharge have been prescribed for major water polluting industries.

(iii) Preventive and control measures are taken by the Central/State Pollution Control Boards to regulate discharge of industrial wastes to the prescribed standards.

(d) These are continuing efforts which will prevent further deterioration, and the situation will improve when effluent treatment plants are operational.

Abolition of neighbouring travel scheme

846. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neighbouring Travel Scheme (NTS) has been abolished;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to allow Indian tourists to carry Indian currency to Mauritius as in the case of Nepal; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.